

# Virginia Latino Advisory Commission

December 15, 2003

Governor Mark R. Warner  
State Capitol, 3rd Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Warner:

On behalf of the members of the Virginia Latino Advisory Commission, we salute you as the first Governor to include the voice of our community in state government. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Since our appointment on October 7, 2003, our 26-member Commission has met three times, and designated 23 issues of importance to the Latino community statewide. After prioritizing and voting, we have formed seven committees to research and present our interim recommendations or solutions in the following areas:

- 1) Identification Issues: Driver's Licenses, Consular Identification Cards  
(Matricula Consular)
- 2) Translation/Access for Non-English Proficient Residents
- 3) Business Issues
- 4) Law Enforcement Issues
- 5) Healthcare Issues
- 6) Education Issues
- 7) Hispanic Representation

The Commission looks forward to working together with our community to bring forth ideas and solutions to many pressing concerns for Virginia's Latino population. In particular, due to the upcoming implementation of the Legal Presence Law effective January 1, 2004, identification issues are of special high priority for our community (please refer to Interim Report under Identification Issues). The Commission contends that we can best serve our community and the state at this crucial time by becoming proactive rather than reactive.

The Commission respectfully submits this Interim Report and looks forward to working with you to address the issues described herein, as well as others that may be identified in the future. On behalf of Commission members, thank you again for your leadership and commitment to Virginia's Latino community.

Sincerely yours,

J. Walter Tejada  
Chairman

Beatriz Amberman  
Vice Chair